

OTHER NOTES ON BLACKSPOT*

By Albert Ford

(adapted from the January –February 1999 MRS Newsletter)

* The fungal disease's common name is properly spelled as two words; however, spelling it as one word has become more popular in the literature.

Also on the subject of blackspot, there appeared an article in the 1998 American Rose Annual, which gives additional information and describes a system for evaluating the degree of impairment of a variety by the fungus. The system seems complicated and cumbersome; however, the same article describes a nontoxic spray for black spot which is worth trying. It was developed at Texas A & M University at College Station, Texas. Rose Flora™ is the product name and it consists of nontoxic, organic soil-based bacteria, which is reported to be safe environmentally for humans and pets. It is supplemented by a natural pine oil emulsion, Wilt-Pruf®, which is a polyterpene polymer and has been on the gardening market for a long time. The two products are mixed together and, according to the article, provide good control of blackspot and powdery mildew.

On December 4, 1998, your Editor ordered both Rose Flora™ and Wilt-Pruf® from the source recommended in the 1998 American Rose Annual article for a conscientious trial during the 1999 growing season.

Like so many rosarians, I have been looking for a nontoxic solution to the blackspot problem. I firmly believe that the growing of roses is dependent upon finding a reasonable solution, and maybe this is it. We were very disappointed in the results of two prior trials conducted by members of the Maryland Rose Society. As you may remember, with both a garlic based product and a neem based product, our results were unsatisfactory.

It should be noted that the recommended formula may result in an augmented rose leaf surface, which may be construed as a “foreign substance” by Rose Show Judges. It may be that suspending the use of the Wilt-Pruf addition, when a show is coming up, will overcome that potential problem.

BLACKSPOT RESISTANT ROSE VARIETIES FOR THE MARYLAND AREA

As some of our members are aware, the Maryland Rose Society has an effort underway to identify varieties of roses which are disease resistant for our area. This seems to be a noble pursuit in view of several concerns:

1. The public seems to shy away from planting roses because, in its judgment, they are too difficult to care for. They mention concepts like, “All that spraying with chemicals,” and “Roses are disease prone.”
2. There are repeated requests from gardeners and Garden Clubs for recommendations of roses that are “easy to grow.”
3. The almost universal desire to dispense with the spraying of toxic chemicals.
4. The repeated admonition of writers on the subject to purchase roses that are known to be disease resistant. Recall Malcolm Manners; “One of the best ways to avoid black spot is to choose and plant highly resistant varieties.”

The next consideration in the preparation of a list of disease resistant varieties was to come to grips with what a “disease resistant” rose really is. Let's face it, what variety of rose is completely free of the two prevalent--and most exasperating--rose diseases in this area, blackspot

and powdery mildew? At one point, I would have said, the Rugosas and their hybrids, but the American Rosa Annual article shows them to be less than perfect, 99% resistant, but not 100%.

For practical purposes, I believe any list should contain those varieties which may be affected by blackspot, but to a tolerable degree, without spraying, in a Maryland garden. Take **Sun Flare**, for example. In my garden, I almost never see blackspot on it. That is not to say it is completely immune, because I have seen blackspot on **Sun Flare**. The degree of infection, however, is minor and would not prevent my recommending it as a “Highly Disease Resistant” variety for this area.

With the above as a background, the first listing of Highly Resistant Rose Varieties for the Baltimore, Maryland area appears on Page 9 of this Newsletter. The list is tentative, and will be expanded upon and amended depending on reports from members of the Maryland Rose Society. If you have not made your opinions known to the Editor, I wish you would do so.

HIGHLY DISEASE RESISTANT ROSE VARIETIES RECOMMENDED FOR THE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND AREA

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The varieties listed here were selected on the basis of little or no blackspot present upon them while using a weekly or every ten-day preventative spray program or none to tolerable levels of blackspot without a preventative spray program.

Variety	Class	Color	1999 Rating
Alec's Red	hybrid tea	medium red	7.5
All That Jazz	shrub	orange pink	7.6
Aloha	climbing HT	medium pink	7.5
Altissimo	LCl	medium red	N
America	LCl	orange pink	8.5
Apricot Nectar	floribunda	apricot blend	8.0
Betty Prior	floribunda	medium pink	8.2
Ballerina	hybrid musk	medium pink	8.8
Bonica	shrub	medium pink	8.5
Belinda's Dream	shrub	medium pink	N
Carefree Beauty	shrub	medium pink	8.5
Carefree Delight	shrub	pink blend	8.4
Carefree Wonder	shrub	pink blend	8.0
Carrousel	grandiflora	medium red	7.0
China Doll	polyantha	medium pink	8.2
Chrysler Imperial	hybrid tea	dark red	7.5
Don Juan	LCl	dark red	8.2
Dortmund	Kordesii	medium red	9.4
Country Dancer	shrub	deep pink	8.4
Double Delight	hybrid tea	red blend	8.7
Duet	hybrid tea	medium pink	5.4
Escapade	floribunda	mauve	8.7
Honey Sweet	shrub	orange pink	N

Variety	Class	Color	1999 Rating
Earth Song	grandiflora	deep pink	8.1
Electron	hybrid tea	deep pink	7.5
Elina	hybrid tea	light yellow	8.9
Fragrant Cloud	hybrid tea	orange red	8.1
Golden Girl	grandiflora	medium yellow	6.4
Gold Medal	grandiflora	medium yellow	8.6
Golden Wings	shrub	light yellow	8.9
Honey Favorite	hybrid tea	light pink	7.0
Iceberg	floribunda	white	8.9
Irish Gold	hybrid tea	medium yellow	6.5
Liverpool Remembers	hybrid tea	orange red	7.4
Marchesa Boccella	hyb. perpetual	light pink	8.9
Margo Koster	polyantha	orange blend	7.5
Maria Stern	hybrid tea	orange blend	6.7
Marie Pavié	polyantha	white	8.8
Mme. Hardy	Damask	white	9.0
Mister Lincoln	hybrid tea	dark red	8.6
New Dawn	LCI	light pink	8.5
Oklahoma	hybrid tea	dark red	6.2
Olympiad	hybrid tea	medium red	9.0
Pascali	hybrid tea	white	8.1
Peace*	hybrid tea	yellow blend	8.4
Pink Favorite	hybrid tea	medium pink	7.3
Pink Parfait	grandiflora	pink blend	8.1
Pristine	hybrid tea	white	9.1
Queen Elizabeth	grandiflora	medium pink	7.4
<i>R. rugosa</i> & hybrids	Sp & HRg	white to red	high
Sally Holmes	shrub	white	8.9
Sheer Elegance	hybrid tea	orange pink	7.7
Sheila's Perfume	floribunda	yellow blend	8.3
Shreveport	grandiflora	orange blend	6.5
Smooth Lady	hybrid tea	medium pink	6.5
St. Patrick	hybrid tea	yellow blend	7.7
Sun Flare	floribunda	medium yellow	8.3
Sunsprite	floribunda	deep yellow	8.7
Sunset Celebration	hybrid tea	apricot blend	N
The Fairy	polyantha	light pink	8.7
The McCartney Rose	hybrid tea	medium pink	7.6
Typhoon	hybrid tea	orange blend	6.7
Voodoo	hybrid tea	orange blend	6.9

Notes : N: Rating not established.
LCI: Large Flowering Climber
Sp & HRg: Species and Hybrid Rugosas

Members of the MRS and others familiar with rose growing in the Baltimore, MD area may suggest amendments and/or additions to this list by contacting the Editor, MRS Newsletter.

It is recognized this list is tentative and need be extended, especially in the area of Old Garden Roses. Your assistance will be appreciated. Calls may be made to 410-252-2845.

Maryland Rose Society Newsletter

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<http://www.mgs.md.gov/misc/mdrose>